

Select board

Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2022

Town Offices

Hybrid Session Via Zoom

6:00 pm

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on July 26, 2022, at 6:01 pm by the Chairperson, Joyce Palmer-Fortune via Zoom. Also present were Selectboard members Fred Baron and Julie Waggoner. Present were Town Administrator Brian Domina via Zoom, Community Development Administrator and Assistant Town Administrator Hannah Davis, Administrative Assistant Amy Lavallee, Nouria Representative Kelly Cruz via Zoom.

Meeting Minutes: Review and vote to approve the meeting minutes from July 13, 2022

The Board was unable to review the minutes from July 13, 2022. The Board will approve the minutes later.

Vendor & Payroll Warrants: Review past vendor and payroll warrants

The Board was unable to review the vendor and payroll warrants. The Board will review the warrants later.

Public Comment: Listen to comments from the public related to items not listed on the agenda

None

COVID19

The Board of Health updated their recommendations. Masks are recommended for everyone regardless of vaccination status, sign in sheets are no longer required. Other previous recommendations are still valid.

Old Business

- a. To discuss the MVP grant awarded to Whately for a solar energy installation at the Town Offices

Hannah informed the Board that the MVP grant has been approved for the installation of solar panels at the Town Offices and for youth solar education purposes. They are now in discussions with Valley Solar and Eversource regarding the size of the system and any additional fees the Town may incur. They were informed by Eversource that if the system stays under 500 kW the Town should not incur the \$150k interconnect fee. The Town has a 10% match that can come from ARP A funds. Hannah is also in discussions with Hitchcock Learning Center regarding the dates for the educational portion for Elementary students.

New Business

a. To review an application from Nouria Energy for a change of manager for the alcohol license at the Whately Diner

Kelly Cruz from Nouria, owner of the Whately Diner, informed the Board that they will be changing managers. She informed that all managers and servers are all TIP certified and trained. As the Local Licensing Authority, the Board needs to approve the Change in Manager request and send the approval to the ABCC for its review and approval. Motion made to approve the Change of Manager request for the alcohol license at the Whately Diner. Motion seconded. All in favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

b. To review and vote to approve the regional dog kennel agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Brian informed the board that the previous contract between the Town and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for the use of the regional Franklin County Dog Kennel is expiring and needs to be renewed. The difference in the contract for this year is a change in fee from \$50 per day to \$50 per dog per day whenever Whately needs to board a dog. Motion made to approve the renewal of the contract for use of the Franklin County Dog Kennel. Motion seconded. All in favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

c. To review and sign the 2022 State Primary Election Warrant

Hannah presented to the Board the State Primary Election Warrant submitted by the Town Clerk.

A motion was made to sign the State Primary Election Warrant and to set the date for September 6, 2022 (7 am to 8 pm) and the location for 194 Chestnut Plain Road in Whately as written in the warrant. Motion seconded. All in favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

d. To discuss requests to carryover vacation time from FY22 to FY23

The Board discussed the requests from 2 employees who were unable to use their planned vacation time. Joyce indicated that the Board considers these requests when unforeseeable situations arise that result in employees not being able to use vacation time by the end of the fiscal year.

A motion was made to approve the carryover vacation time request for Keith Bardwell

(35 hours) and Lynn Sibley (27 hours). Motion seconded. All in favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

e. To review and discuss a special event application for a block party at Pine Plains Estates

The Board reviewed and discussed the event application. Motion was made to approve the application. Motion seconded. All in favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

Town Administrator Updates: items likely to be discussed) DMCTC phone call re: 4/20 State Road; remote meeting extension passed into law; status of FY23 state budget

Brian discussed with the Board a discussion that he, Joyce and Hannah had with a representative from DMCTC regarding plans for the grey building at 420 State Road. Representative discussed the possibility of renting out unused space to other cannabis related industries such as a possible grow facility or social consumption lounge. Currently the State of Massachusetts has in place a pilot program in certain municipalities for social consumption lounges. The Town of Whately cannot approve one until the State

allows it. DMCTC was planning on starting a conversation with the Planning Board about possible bylaw changes.

Brian informed the Board that the State of Massachusetts passed an extension of the remote meeting laws until March of 2023.

Brian discussed with the Board the State budget of \$52 billion has been sent to Governor Baker for signing. It includes increases in funding for education, state owned properties, and general local aid.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:40 pm. Motion seconded. All in favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

Next Meetings: TBD

Board agrees to schedule next Selectboard meeting for August 24, 2022, at 6pm.

Documents List

Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2022

Warrant W23-03

Email from Kara Runsten to Hannah Davis, Whately MVP Action Grant, July 20, 2022

Whately Energy Resilience and Education FY23/FY24 MVP Action Grant Scope/Budget- Attachment Agreement by and between the Franklin County Sheriffs Office and the Town of Whately, FY23 through FY26

Document, 2022 STATE PRIMARY

Special Event Application, Grant Ritter, August 13, 2022